

Wm's
La
CLITHEROE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF

WM. E. BARKER, M.B., CH.B., (VICT.),
AND L.S.A., (LOND.).

Medical Officer of Health.

1907.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee of the Borough of Clitheroe.*


Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my (sixth)
Annual Report for the year 1907.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. E. BARKER.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29115954>

CLITHEROE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
1907.

**Physical Features and General
Character of the District.**

The Borough of Clitheroe is situated in North East Lancashire, in the valley of the Ribble, and within about half a mile of the boundary of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The town is built about a ridge of limestone at an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea, and the district is drained principally by the Mearley Brook, which runs through the town to join the river Ribble.

The mean annual rainfall is 47·695 inches, and the mean annual temperature is 46·9.

The prevailing winds are Westerly and South-Westerly.

The area of the Borough is 2381 acres.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 2535.

The population at the last census (March, 1901) was 11414, but this was probably a slight overstatement of the population proper at the time, as a number of persons were

included who were temporarily resident in the town in connection with a fair which was taking place.

The population is estimated at 12,500 for the purposes of this report, but as there has been an influx of people into the town during 1907 this number is probably below the present actual population (January, 1908).

The chief industry of the town is Cotton Weaving, but there are extensive Lime Quarries in the neighbourhood and a large Works, understood to be intended for printing or dyeing, is nearing completion.

The railway is the sole means of transit in the district, there being no canal in the neighbourhood, and the river at this point being un-navigable.

The assessable value of the Urban District is £42,771 ; and its income from all sources £27,866 ; Expenditure on improvement works £448 ; Total expenditure £27,447.

House Accommodation.

At the time of the census in March, 1901, there were 2753 houses in the Borough, and of this number 218 were unoccupied. The number of houses at the end of 1907 is estimated at 2898, and all of these are occupied with the exception of 3, which are unfit for habitation. 75 houses were erected during 1907, and 45 were in course of erection at the close of the year. Beyond this, plans have been passed for a further 96 houses and when these are completed there should be more than ample accommodation, though undoubtedly during 1907 the provision for the working classes was at times put to a severe test, and seven cases of overcrowding were dealt with.

In all 145 houses have been erected since the census of 1901.

On the whole the house accommodation for the working classes is good but there is still a considerable number of back to back houses (179).

Two single houses have been abolished during the year and the number of these now stands at 70. Some of these have back windows which is an advantage as admitting of thorough ventilation.

The windows and fireplaces in the bedrooms of some of these houses are frequently defective, and it is sometimes impossible to open the former, or to light a fire in the latter. This, particularly in cases of sickness, is a serious matter as efficient ventilation under such circumstances is quite impossible.

In the newer parts of the town conditions are naturally better, and the houses here are erected with due regard to a sufficiency of surrounding air space and adequate ventilation.

A considerable amount of work has been done recently as regards street improvement, but something still remains to be done in this respect.

Sewage and Drainage.

Of the 2898 houses in the Borough 2613 are now permanently connected with the main sewer, and of the remaining 285, some 30 are in outlying districts. The sewers are flushed periodically, and ventilating shafts having been erected at the ends of many of the branch sewers complaints are few.

The Sewage is treated on the broad land irrigation system, three Bacteria beds being also in use, and for some years now the effluent has without exception been satisfactory to the Ribble Watershed Joint Committee.

Excrement Removal.

This is carried out by a variety of the tub system. The tubs are not prepared in any way and have no lids. The contents are conveyed without treatment on to neighbouring lands. This objectionable system is steadily giving way to water carriage and 495 fresh water closets and 966 slop water closets are now in use.

51 fresh water closets and 107 slop water closets have been installed during 1907.

31 Midden Privies still remain, one having been abolished during the year under notice. The majority of the remaining ones are situated outside the town proper.

House Refuse.

This is placed in ash tubs and removed to tips outside the town by the Public Authority.

Water Supply.

This is derived from Upland Sources, is remarkably pure and soft, and quite adequate in amount.

Public Baths have been provided by private munificence at Low Moor but there are none in Clitheroe proper.

Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been in force since 1890 but the town has not yet provided an Infectious Diseases Hospital, nor a Public Disinfecting Apparatus.

After cases of Infectious Disease the rooms with their contents are exposed to the fumes of burning Sulphur, and when thought desirable infected bedding and clothing are destroyed by fire.

In cases of Typhoid Fever a special pail is provided for the excreta which are treated immediately by chemical

disinfectants, and frequently removed and destroyed by burning.

The town has joint use, along with the Authorities of the Clitheroe Rural and Bowland Rural Districts, of an Isolation Hospital of eight beds for Smallpox. This was erected in 1903, but has fortunately not as yet been required, a somewhat surprising fact considering the number of vagrants constantly passing through the town.

I believe this class of person to be on the increase and this increase I consider very largely due to the present system of Common Lodging Houses. In these places, single young men of the unskilled labouring classes, who at one time lived respectably in private lodgings, are thrown into contact with the professional tramp, and they are soon by this means impressed with the idea that work of any kind is unnecessary and altogether rather foolish. They find that when necessity arises, as during sickness, the vagrant is in quite as advantageous a position as they are—someone is bound to provide for them, they know.

In these places they learn to live from hand to mouth, day by day without thought of the morrow, and in these places they lose their sense of individuality and responsibility, their sense of citizenship, their manhood and their self respect. At this point if they are thrown temporarily out of work the knowledge and trickery gleaned from their vagrant associates becomes their stock-in-trade and they “take the road” equipped as a 20th century highwayman.

Places over which the Council have supervision.

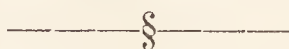
Information on this subject will be found in my report on the working of the Factory and Workshops’ Act, and in the accompanying Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages Total.		Deaths in Workhouse	Deaths of Non residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District. 10.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District. 11.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered 6	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			12	13
1897	11600	295	25.4	26	88	164	14.1	18	8	...	156	13.4
1898	11350	289	25.4	40	138	175	15.4	21	7	...	168	14.8
1899	11350	264	23.2	34	125	166	14.6	17	5	...	161	14.1
1900	11375	248	21.8	41	165	189	16.6	16	5	...	184	16.1
1901	11400	263	23	43	163	183	16	23	9	...	174	15.2
1902	11450	255	22.2	32	125	177	15.4	26	11	...	166	14.49
1903	11500	274	23.8	36	131	185	16.08	20	6	2	181	15.6
1904	11550	282	24.4	39	138	199	17.2	18	8	2	193	16.7
1905	11575	259	22.3	26	100.3	164	14.1	18	3	2	163	14.0
1906	11600	258	22.2	34	131	183	15.7	19	7	1	177	15.2
Averages for years 1897 1906	11475	268	23.3	35	130	178	15.5	19	6	...	172	14.9
1907	12500	296	23.6	31	104	167	13.3	25	8	8	167	13.3

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

VITAL STATISTICS.



Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 296, which is the highest aggregate reached since 1896, when the number was 306. This number (296) gives a birth rate of 23.6 per 1000 per annum of the population, which is 1.4 higher than the rate for 1906. and .3 above the average for the last ten years. Of the births registered, 138 were males, and 158 females.

Death Rate.

167 deaths were registered as actually belonging to the district during 1907 and this number is equal to a death rate of 13.3 per 1000 per annum. This rate is 1.9 below the corresponding figures for 1906, it is 1.6 below the average for the last ten years, and no rate so low has been recorded during the last fifteen years, for which period I have the figures immediately available.

Infant Mortality.

31 deaths occurred of children under one year of age which is equal to a rate of 104 per 1000 children born, that is to say of every 1000 children which come into the world a rather larger proportion than 1 in 10 fail to survive the first 12 months of life. This number is 4 per 1000 less than the average of the past ten years which is some slight cause for congratulation, but it still represents a drain of over 10% on a birth rate which is itself 30% less than would have been considered about a normal birth rate less than 20 years ago.

TABLE II.

Names of Localities.		Clitheroe.				Clitheroe Proper including Workhouse				Low Moor.			
Year.		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1897	..	11600	295	156	26	10750	280	146	24	850	15	10	2
1898	..	11350	289	168	40	10500	267	161	38	„	22	7	2
1899	..	11350	264	161	34	10500	255	151	32	„	9	10	2
1900	..	11375	248	184	41	10525	242	170	40	„	6	14	1
1901	..	11400	263	174	43	10550	244	162	42	„	19	12	1
1902	..	11450	255	166	32	10600	243	157	30	„	12	9	2
1903	..	11500	274	181	36	10650	261	164	35	„	13	17	1
1904	..	11550	282	193	39	10700	264	174	35	„	18	19	4
1905	..	11575	259	163	26	10725	244	154	25	„	15	9	1
1906	..	11600	258	177	34	10750	241	165	31	„	17	12	3
Averages of Years 1897 to 1906. }		11475	268	172	35	10625	254	160	33	850	14.6	11	1.9
1907	..	12500	296	167	31	11650	279	154	30	850	17	13	1

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality	
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	Clitheroe Proper.	Low Moor.
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	3	..	1	..	2	..	..	3	..
Erysipelas	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	1
Scarlet fever ..	11	..	2	8	..	1	..	11	..
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	7	..	..	2	2	3	..	7	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	24	..	3	10	4	7	..	23	1

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages)		Deaths in Public Institu- tion Work- house.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Clitheroe proper	Low Moor	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	1	.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhns .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
{ Other continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	5	4	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	1
Enteritis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	12	..	1	..	3	8	..	12	..	1
Other tubercular diseases	6	..	2	3	1	..	..	6	..	1
Cancer, malignant ,,	13	..	..	..	..	10	3	13	..	1
Bronchitis	13	3	..	..	..	2	8	11	2	1
Pneumonia	7	4	..	..	..	3	..	5	2	..
Plelursy .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	..	1
Venereal diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Heart disesaes	14	1	..	1	..	10	2	13	1	1
Accidents	3	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	1	..
Suicides	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
All other causes	68	8	4	..	3	22	31	62	6	18
All causes	167	31	14	5	7	64	46	154	13	25

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1907.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	6-7 months	7-8 months	8-9 months	11-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes.	(Certified	9	1	2	1	13	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	31
	(Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria : Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Diarrhoea, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Enteritis, Muco--en-	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3
	teritis, Gastro-en-															
	teritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis, Gastro-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	intestinal Catarrh }															
	Premature Birth	6	1	1	1	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
	Congenital Defects ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Diseases	Want of Breast-milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility }	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	5
	Marasmus															
	Tuber. Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuber. Peritonitis }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tables Mesenter ..															
	Other Tuberculous }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diseases															
	Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(not Tuberculous ..															
	Convulsions .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis .....	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	4
	Pneumonia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	Other Causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		9	1	2	1	13	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	31

A reference to Table V. will show that 15 of these 31 deaths—that is about one half—were attributed to Premature Birth (9) or to Debility ; whilst of the remainder seven were due to acute lung affections. During 1907 only nine deaths, an unusually small percentage, occurred from Diarrhoeal and Wasting Diseases and therefore the present year's figures do not illustrate as well as they might do, and as they usually would do, the more obvious of the advantages which would be gained by the adoption of the Early Notifications of Births Act, which has been recently under the consideration of the Council.

The object of this Act is to obtain early notification of all births, so that in any case where it is thought necessary or desirable, some person appointed for the purpose, such as a district nurse or a lady visitor, may immediately visit the home and offer such advice as to the feeding and general management of the infant, as may ensure to it a fair chance of surviving the dangers which beset the early months of its life at the hands of a mother ignorant as many are of maternal duties.

In a manufacturing town such as Clitheroe where many mothers work in the Factories, a large proportion of the infants born are artificially reared, that is to say they are “bottle fed.” This entails an enormous increase of risk to the infant during the early months of its life even under the most favourable circumstances, but when to what might be termed the legitimate risks, are added the dangers arising from ignorance on the mother's part as to the choice, the preparation and the administration of the artificial food, one can easily understand the enormous mortality which obtains amongst artificially fed children.

The Early Notification of Birth Act is by no means an ideal production and it contains some objectionable features, but such remarkable success has attended what one may term "private enterprises" on similar lines,—as for instance at Huddersfield—that one feels bound to very strongly recommend its universal adoption if only on the grounds of common humanity.

Zymotic Death Rate.

During the year 13 deaths were attributed to the seven principle Zymotic Diseases, this being equal to a rate of 1.04 per 1000 per annum of the population. This rate closely approximates to the average rate for the last six years.

Infectious Diseases.

Reference to Table IV. shows that only 24 cases of Infectious Disease were reported during the year under notice. This is a remarkably low number and contrasts favourably with 39 cases in 1906; 26 in 1905—another favourable year—; 53 in 1904; 84 in 1903; 62 in 1902; or an average of 48 for the years 1902 to 1907 inclusive.

In December of 1907 a case of Erysipelas was reported at Low Moor, and this is noteworthy as being the first infectious case of any description notified in this district of the town during the three years 1905, 1906, 1907.

Scarlet Fever.

A reference to Table VI. will show that only 11 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during 1907, this being the lowest number recorded since 1897. The average number of cases notified during the past ten years is 35. No deaths occurred from this disease in 1907.

TABLE VI.

Year.	Number of Cases Notified.	Number of Deaths.	Rate of Case Mortality.
1897	7	nil.	nil.
1898	14	nil.	nil.
1899	36	1	2·9
1900	47	1	2·1
1901	118	6	5
1902	52	2	3·5
1903	16	2	12·5
1904	34	nil.	nil.
1905	15	1	6·6
1906	19	1	5·2
Average of 10 years.	35	1·4	3·7
1907	11	...	...

Measles.

A somewhat severe Epidemic of Measles occurred during the last quarter of the year, necessitating the closing of the Infant Departments of all the Schools in the town with the exception of the Low Moor School. Three deaths resulted, all being of children under five years of age.

During the same portion of the year Whooping Cough was also prevalent, three deaths resulting.

I should like to take this opportunity of again calling attention to a fact which does not seem to be generally

appreciated by the public, namely, that Measles and Whooping Cough, two affections which are widely regarded as being of a quite trivial nature, are responsible for far more deaths than is Scarlet Fever, a disease almost universally regarded with the greatest dread. I am aware that this may to some extent be accounted for by the fact that Scarlet Fever causes parents a good deal of trouble and inconvenience by reason of the fact that it is a notifiable disease entailing lengthy isolation and subsequent disinfection, &c., but apart from this I am quite sure that the relative risks incurred by an attack of Whooping Cough or Measles, as against the danger of Scarlet Fever, are not nearly apprised at their proper value.

In this connection, I have looked up the Annual Statistics from 1902 (the year in which I was appointed Medical Officer of Health) to 1907 inclusive, and I find that during those six years only six deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, whereas 13 deaths occurred during the same time from Whooping Cough, and 22 from Measles,—that is to say, Whooping Cough and Measles together accounted for practically six times as many deaths during that period, as did Scarlet Fever.

I do not mean to infer that the case mortality,—that is the number of deaths per cent of children attacked—is greater in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough than it is of Scarlet Fever. Granted proper care and nursing such is probably not the case. Owing however to the comparative indifference with which the two former affections are regarded, this proper care and nursing is frequently not extended to the cases, and it is almost the exception for a Medical man to be called in, until com-

plications have ensued involving the gravest possible risks to life.

It should surely not be beyond human ingenuity to devise some means whereby such simple facts as these might be impressed upon the masses of the people, and granted that this might have been done, probably one half at least, of the 35 deaths, recorded from Measles and Whooping Cough during the last half dozen years in Clitheroe alone, might have been prevented.

Incalculable good would result if a few elementary facts such as these could be conveyed to children—especially girls—during their last year's attendance at school. The time required would be infinitesimal, and, unless I am vastly mistaken, would be far more profitably and practically extended than is frequently now the case. For some years I have been a strong advocate of the teaching of Hygiene in the Day Schools, but I must confess that I have as yet seen no Scheme which appeared to me to be a reasonable one. Most of them are too ambitious, too involved, and too theoretical. What is required is not the "Physiological Catechism," but the "Hygienic Ten Commandments."

I believe that half-an-hour per week profitably and practically expended at school would in a few years time result in the saving of thousands of lives each year in England, not to mention the prevention of many more thousands of living deaths.

It would obviate also the necessity for such tinkering legislation as the "Early Notification of Births Act."

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and one of these ended fatally.

Enteric Fever.

Seven cases of Enteric (Typhoid) Fever were reported during 1907 and one was fatal.

In several of these cases the disease was distinctly traced as having been contracted outside the town, in one or two others the origin was not obvious.

I think that the inhabitants of Clitheroe would be well advised to purchase such articles as fish, fruit and vegetables from tradesmen in the town, rather than from the carts of hawkers from other towns, as this latter proceeding is not without additional risk, where such diseases as Enteric Fever are concerned.

Erysipelas.

Three cases of Erysipelas were reported, all of which resulted favourably.

Phthisis.

Twelve deaths were attributed to Consumption during the year, and six to "other tubercular affections."

This is a slight increase on the average of the last few years. This affection is now known to be infectious, and to a large extent preventible, but as must always be the case in such matters the education and co-operation of the public is necessary before useful knowledge can be put to profitable account. In this connection I am pleased to say that the Council have recently ordered the distribution of handbills warning the public against the danger attaching to the dirty habit of expectorating in public places.

Factory and Workshops Act.

During 1907 I have again, either alone or in compauy

with Mr. Davies, the Inspector of Nuisances, visited many of the Workshops, etc., in the district.

Factories and Workshops.

Including five Stone Quarries, there are at present 20 Factories in the Borough where mechanical power is used and over 40 persons employed, and there are 44 places where other mechanical power is used and under 40 persons employed. This latter figure (44) shows an increase of 3 on 1906.

There are 60 Workshops where no mechanical power is used and there are 39 (a decrease of 2) Domestic Workshops. This gives a total of 163 places coming within the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act.

All these places are regularly inspected.

Six notices of "defects found" have been served during the year and all have been satisfactorily complied with.

A proper register of Workshops is kept, and also proper lists of out-workers, and the homes of the latter have been periodically visited. Nothing calling for attention came under notice.

Bakehouses.

There are 23 Bakehouses in the district, none of which are "underground." This is an increase of two over 1906. One notice to lime-wash was served and complied with.

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

The Dairies are all in a satisfactory condition, but some of the Cow Sheds are still deficient in light, ventilation and air space. As regards cleanliness they are satisfactory.

One Cowshed was condemned and a new one built which is in accordance with the bye-laws.

Slaughter Houses.

There are six private Slaughter Houses in use, and all are clean and satisfactorily conducted.

New Public Slaughter Houses have been completed during the year.

A summary of the work done under the Factory and Workshops Act will be found in the accompanying Tables.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Work-places and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	76	2	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	47	2	..
Workplaces	35	..	..
Total	158	4	..

2.—DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	..	..
Want of ventilation .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary accomodation	insufficient	3	3	..
	defective	..	..	..
	not separate for sexes ..	1	1	..
<i>Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100 .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	6	6	..	..

3.—HOMECWORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107				Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.
	Once in the year.				
	Lists.	Outworkers.			
		Contractors	Workmen.		
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. . . (2) cleaning and washing Lace, lace curtains and nets Furniture and Upholstery Fur pulling Umbrellas Paper Bags and Boxes Brush making Stuffed Toys File making Electro Plate Cables and Chains Anchors and Grapnels Cart Gear Locks, Latches and Keys TOTAL	 8 				

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	{ With Mechanical Power and over 40 persons..	20
	{ With Mechanical Power and under 40 persons	44
	{ No Mechanical Power	60
	{ Domestic	39
	Total number workshops on Register ..	163

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	Number
<i>Matters notified to H. M. Inspector of Factories:—</i>	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) .. . . .	..
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) {	
Notified by H.M. Inspector -	3
Reports (of actions taken) sent	3
Other .. . . .	..
<i>Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—</i>	
Certificates granted during the year .. . . .	..
In use at the end of the year . .. . .	..

REPORT OF MR. THOS. DAVIES

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Inspector of Nuisances' Office,

Church Street, January 1st, 1908

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Fifteenth Annual Report of the work done in my Department during the year ending December 31st, 1907.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act.

The following will show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, with the number of Houses in which the cases have occurred :—

Scarlet Fever11 cases in 11 houses.

Typhoid Fever 7 ,, 7

Diphtheria 3 ,, 3

Erysipelas 3 ,, 3

Making a total of ...24 ,, 24

In the previous year there were..39 ,, 34

After the termination of the cases each house is Fumigated with Sulphur and afterwards thoroughly cleaned,

Several articles of Clothing, Beds, Bedding, Carpets. Rugs, Toys and Books have been destroyed by fire after fever cases.

Three lots of Bedding have been destroyed by fire after cases of long sickness.

The Council School was thoroughly Fumigated with Sulphur after an outbreak of Measles.

In all Infected Houses where books are borrowed from the Free Library, the books are taken and disinfected before they are returned to the Library, and every precaution is taken to prevent the cases from spreading.

We have distributed during the year to various persons, for disinfecting purposes 287 gallons of Disinfecting Liquor and 60 cwt. of Disinfecting Powder.

Nuisances.

The work done under this heading may be summarised as follows :—

Nuisances on the Books	358
Notices and Letters sent to abate	
Nuisances.....	32
Nuisances abated without notices	310
Nuisances on the Books unabated.....	16

I may state here that most of the Nuisances unabated on the Books have been reported to the Committee, and are in the hands of the Surveyor, and will be attended to in due course.

The following will show the nature of the Nuisances abated :—

- 29 Choked Top Water Drains opened and cleaned.
- 46 Choked Slop Water Drains opened and cleaned.
- 6 Choked Gulleys cleaned.
- 7 Choked Cellar Drains opened and cleaned.
- 15 Choked Latrines opened and cleaned.
- 51 Choked Tippers opened and cleaned.
- 12 Broken Tippers repaired.
- 2 Slop Pipes repaired.
- 7 Defective Fresh Water Closets repaired.
- 3 Defective Soil Pipes repaired.
- 1 Dilapidated Closet repaired.
- 1 New Sanitary Pipe Drain substituted for an Old Stone Drain.
- 13 Bog Hole Doors repaired.
- 4 Defective Rain Spouts repaired.
- 1 Defective Urinal repaired.
- 7 Dirty Closets cleaned.
- 19 Dirty Back Yards cleaned.
- 1 Dirty House cleaned.
- 3 New Ash Tubs provided where the accommodation was insufficient.
- 2 Lots of Poultry removed from Back Yards.
- 3 Lots of Rubbish removed from Back Streets.
- 1 Lot of Manure removed.
- 14 Dead Carcases taken out of the Brook.

The Bog Holes in 56 streets have been cleaned and disinfected.

The open sewers in Whalley Road, Duck Street, and Hawthorne Place have been cleaned.

1 Old Midden Privy has been abolished, thus reducing the number from 32 to 31, the greater portion of the remaining Middens are in outlying parts of the district, where the population is thin and scattered.

46 Vans used as dwellings, visiting the Fairs from various parts of the country, have been inspected, and found free from sickness and clean.

7 Cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

There are still 179 Back to Back Houses.

2 Single Houses have been abolished during the year thus reducing the number from 72 to 70. Some of the remaining single houses have windows at the back thus giving the means of having a thorough current of air.

246 Ash Tubs for House refuse have been replaced during the year, and 152 Excreta Pails replaced.

There are 2,610 Tubs for House Refuse and 1725 Excreta Pails in use.

There are 495 Fresh Water Closets, 16 Latrines and 966 Slop Water Closets in use.

650 Slop Water closets have been put in old property since the Corporation adopted the system in 1894, and 316 in new property.

49 Slop Water Closets have been put in old property this year and 58 in new property.

30 Fresh Water Closets have been put in old property this year and 21 in new property.

3 Sets of Fresh Water Latrines have been put in Schools and Mills during the year.

Estimated number of Houses in the Borough 2,898. Out of this number 2613 are permanently connected to the Main Sewer, leaving 285 to be connected.

I may say that about 30 of the 285 are in the out-lying district and beyond our present system.

This year out of the 2,613 Houses 153 have been permanently connected that previously were only temporarily connected.

At the Census of 1901 there were 2,753 Houses in the Borough, out of this number 218 were unoccupied.

145 New Houses have been built since 1901.

75 New Houses have been built this year.

We estimate the number of Houses in the Borough at the end of the year at 2,898, and with the exception of 3 Houses, that in their present condition are not fit for human habitation, every House in the Borough is occupied.

There are 45 Houses in course of erection at present, and plans passed for 26 more.

We estimate the Population at the end of the year at about 13,000.

The work of laying Branch Sewers and connecting the houses to the same, is still being carried on.

Ventilating Shafts are put up at the end of all Branch Sewers with very good results.

The main sewers are periodically flushed.

The Paving and Sewering of the Back Streets, and converting the Closets from the Pail System to the Water Carriage System, which the Corporation is pushing on, is certainly an improvement that cannot be estimated, for it is conducive to Health and Cleanliness.

There are only 8 Public Urinals in the town but the Waterloo, Bawdlands and Woone Lane Districts are greatly in need of Urinal accommodation.

Refuse Disposal.

The quantity of refuse collected during the year was as follows :—

House refuse from Tubs taken to the Tip at		
Horrocksford	2194 loads.	
Nightsoil from Midden Privies	„	50 loads.
Rubbish from Back Streets	„ „	17 loads.
House refuse from Tubs taken to Tip at		
Henthorn	374 loads.	
Nightsoil from Midden Privies	„ „	3 loads.
Rubbish from Back Streets	„ „	2 loads.
Excreta from Pails and Tanks taken on to the Land		
of various farms in the District ...	1014 loads.	
Sundries	63 loads.	
Making a total of		<hr/> 3717 loads. <hr/>

The work of collecting the House Refuse is gradually increasing, and we have been compelled to put on an additional cart one day a week, so as to keep up with the work.

The work of collecting the Nightsoil is gradually decreasing, and we expect in a few weeks to discontinue the services of the Contractor, in this Department.

Smoke Nuisance.

I have taken observations of the Smoke emitted from the Mill Chimneys, and the longest period during which dense black smoke was emitted in one hour was about 13 minutes.

We have no time limit in force in the Borough.

Bakehouses.

There are 23 Bakehouses on the Register which are frequently inspected, they are well adapted for the purpose and are kept clean.

Notice to lime-wash was given in one instance.

With this exception I have had no complaint to make during the year.

2 New Bakehouses have been built during the year.

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

These places are visited periodically and as far as cleanliness is concerned I have no complaint to make. But some of them are still defective as regards light, ventilation and air space

One Cow Shed was condemned, and a new one was built according to our Bye-laws.

Notice has been served in one case to remedy some of the above defects, the notice has not yet expired.

There are 42 Cow Sheds registered with accommodation for about 550 head of cattle.

The Dairies are all in a very good condition.

We have not had any notification of any diseases among the cattle during the year.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 Private Slaughter Houses in use in the Borough, they are periodically inspected, they are well conducted and generally kept clean.

Improvements have been made at 2 of these places.

The new Public Slaughter Houses at Foulisykes are

occupied by 7 butchers out of the 14 butchers in the Borough

6 slaughter in Private Slaughter Houses and one slaughters outside of the Borough. We could accommodate all the butchers at the Public Slaughter Houses, as only one half of the place is occupied at present.

With regard to the quality of the meat prepared at these places, we have had no complaints to make during the year.

Shop Hours Act.

There are 23 places that come under this Act. The Act is complied with, so I have no violations of the Act to report. Abstracts of the Act has been supplied to each place during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one Common Lodging House in the Borough registered under three heads, for 164 persons.

There is also furnished apartments in connection with this House to accommodate about 50 persons.

The House is owned by a Company and they have increased the accommodation and made other improvements during the year. The premises are kept clean and fairly well conducted. We have had no serious violation of the Bye-laws to report during the year.

A great improvement has been done to the approach to this house by the Health Committee compelling the owners to pave and sewer the street, which was in a very bad condition.

Factory and Workshops' Act.

There are 20 Factories, including the 5 Stone Quarries, where mechanical power is used and over 40 persons employed, and 44 where mechanical power is used and under 40 persons employed. There are 60 Workshops where no mechanical power is used, and 39 Domestic Workshops, making a total of 163 places what come under the Factories and Workshops' Act of 1901.

5 places have been registered as Workshops during the year, 2 with mechanical power and 3 without.

These places are visited periodically, they are kept clean and are not overcrowded.

The Sanitary accommodations are in a very fair condition, notices were served in 4 cases, 3 to provide better Closet accommodation, and 1 to provide better means of escape in case of fire. These notices were complied with.

All the Mills are now supplied with sufficient Closet accommodation. Copies of the new Act regulating steam Laundries has been served on all the owners of Laundries.

Gentlemen, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS DAVIES,

Inspector of Nuisances.

